

NEWS

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October 28, 2005

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HOEVEN PROCLAIMS SEVERE WINTER WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK

BISMARCK, N.D. - Gov. John Hoeven today proclaimed October 31 -- November 4, 2005, as "Severe Winter Weather Awareness Week" in North Dakota. The annual campaign sponsored by the N.D. Department of Emergency Services (DES) and the National Weather Service (NWS) reminds people to be prepared for winter conditions that could threaten their safety.

"The record-breaking snowstorm that moved through our state in early October underscores the importance of preparing for severe winter weather," Hoeven said. "Every year, winter storms hold the potential for property damage, injury and in some cases, even death. It is important for all North Dakotans to take the time to get prepared, so when severe winter weather strikes, we can prevent injuries and minimize damage."

The N.D. Department of Emergency Services (DES) in collaboration with the N.D. Highway Patrol, Game and Fish Department, Department of Transportation, Parks and Recreation Department and the State Fire Marshall's Office, have been working in partnership with the NWS, to encourage winter preparedness.

"Individuals can prepare for severe winter weather by taking necessary precautions, such as including winter survival kits in homes and vehicles," said Susan Reinertson, Director of the DES Division of Homeland Security. "A major step in preparation is to keep informed of the latest winter storm watches, warnings, and advisories by listening to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather radio broadcasts over a weather alert/all hazards radio, commercial radio, or local television station."

North Dakotans can find information regarding winter weather preparedness at the DES websites; www.state.nd.us/des, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) website; www.fema.gov/hazards/winterstorms/winterweatherf.shtm or the NOAA website www.nws.noaa.gov/om/brochures.shtml#winter.

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